



BEETHOVENFEST BONN

## Chamber music and solo recitals at the Beethovenfest Bonn 2011

Beethoven and Liszt form the backbone of the chamber music programme and the piano recitals at the Beethovenfest Bonn. Both Beethoven and Liszt, as virtuosos, significantly influenced the development of piano building. And the new instrumental possibilities fed back to the making of piano music. In this manner the pianist Beethoven shaped the sound-ideal of the instrument makers from whom he ordered his pianos. One of Beethoven's pianos was found on the list of items in Franz Liszt's estate, and was given to the Hungarian National Museum in 1887, one year after his death. This piano had been given to Beethoven in 1818 by the London piano builder and great Beethoven admirer, Thomas Broadwood. Beethoven's name is resplendent on the piano, as is that of its maker. The Viennese music publisher Carl Anton Spina bought the piano from Beethoven's estate for 180 florins, and gave it to Franz Liszt in 1846. Liszt received many instruments as gifts; among them the piano displayed at the World Exhibition in Paris in 1847, which was built by the leading American piano maker Charles Francis Chickering.

Works by Beethoven and Liszt are the focus of the **piano recitals** at the Beethovenfest Bonn. **Martin Stadtfeld** has his debut in Bonn with an exclusively Beethoven programme, in which he explores works by the young Beethoven as well as those by the experienced and forward-looking composer. He performs Beethoven's Rondo for piano in C major op. 51/1, his Allegretto for Piano in C minor Hess 69 and the Rondo a capriccio for Piano in G major op. 129, the 'Rage Over a Lost Penny'. Furthermore he will play the Prelude for Piano in F minor WoO 55, Beethoven's two Pieces for Piano in C major and F major WoO 51, as well as his Sonata for Piano No. 1 in F minor op. 2/1 and his last Piano Sonata no. 32 in C minor op. 111 (24 September). **Murray Perahia**, who had to cancel his concert at the Beethovenfest Bonn in 2004, is making up for this now with works by Johann Sebastian Bach, Ludwig van Beethoven and Johannes Brahms (6 October). **Arcadi Volodos** has performed at the Beethovenfest Bonn several times. He is considered to be one of the best performers of Liszt and will play his Sonata in B minor, which the composer dedicated to Schumann. In addition Schubert's Sonata in A minor D 784 and the Intermezzi 1-3 op. 117 by Brahms are on his programme (8 October).

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As the methods of piano building improved over the years, Beethoven's sonatas increased in breadth and complexity. This is audible in his sonatas for violin and piano. The violinist, violist and conductor **Julian Rachlin** is arranging a **cyclical performance of Beethoven's violin sonatas** with his chamber music partner **Itamar Golan** at the Beethovenfest Bonn 2011. At all three concerts Rachlin and Golan are also playing a new piece by Richard Dubugnon for violin, viola and piano, hitherto unperformed in Germany: „Violiana“, op. 55; Rachlin is playing the violin as well as the viola (17–19 September).

**Eugene Ugorski and Konstantin Lifschitz**, as well as **Linus Roth and José Gallardo**, are all performing works for violin and piano. Both duos are concentrating on the compositions of Beethoven and Brahms. Beethoven's Sonata for Violin and Piano in F Major op. 24, the "Spring Sonata", and Brahms' First Violin Sonata in G major op. 78 are the first and last pieces to be played at Ugorski and Lifschitz's concert. In between, Béla Bartók's two Rhapsodies for Violin and Piano Sz 86 and the Poème for Violin and Piano op. 25 by Ernest Chausson will be heard (2 October). Linus Roth, accompanied by José Gallardo, plays the Second Violin Sonata by Brahms in A major op. 100 and Beethoven's Sonata for Violin and Piano no. 10 in G major op. 96. The programme of the two chamber musicians also includes Liszt's Première Elegie S130, Igor Stravinsky's Divertimento for Violin and Piano, Karol Szymanowski's Nocturno and Tarantella for Violin and Piano op. 28, as well as Astor Piazzolla's Le Grand Tango in the adaptation for violin and piano (3 October).

Liszt himself described his Première Elegie as music that was meant "more for dreaming than playing". This first elegy can be heard a second time at the Beethovenfest Bonn, in the adaptation for cello and piano. Liszt had a particular fondness for this arrangement, as he liked matching the dark timbre of the cello with 'his' instrument, the piano. **Steven Isserlis and Dénes Várjon** are performing works by Liszt and other composers on two evenings under the titles "Liszt and France", "Liszt and Hungary" and "Liszt and Russia" (4 and 5 October). On the first evening they are performing two of Liszt's programmatic-pictorial duos for cello and piano, the "Romance oubliée" as well as "Die Zelle in Nonnenwerth". Furthermore there will be works by French and Hungarian composers: Camille Saint-Saëns's Sonata no. 1, Gabriel Fauré's Sonata no. 2, Béla Bartók's Rhapsody No. 1 and finally György Kurtág's Four Solo Pieces. Liszt had a strong influence on later Hungarian composers such as Kodály, Bartók and Kurtág. "Liszt and Russia" is the theme of Isserlis and Várjon's second evening. Their programme includes works by Liszt and Russian composers such as Balakirev, Shostakovich and Glazunov, who dedicated his elegy, "Une pensée à François Liszt" to Liszt. Liszt's Première Elegie will be heard along with his "La lugubre Gondola", Mily Alexeyevich Balakirev's Romance, Dmitri Shostakovich's Sonata for Cello and Piano and Thomas Adès's "Lieux retrouvés" (a German premiere). Isserlis and Várjon finish off both concerts with one late cello sonata by Beethoven; on the first evening the Sonata no. 4 in C major op. 102/1 and on the following evening the Sonata no. 5 in D major op. 102/2. Both are considered milestones of chamber music.

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The “Deuxième Elégie” for Cello and Piano is also evidence of spritual-mindedness habitus. **Julian Steckel and Paul Rivinius** are performing this piece on the Liszt-Night, as well as the two works by Liszt that Isserlis and Várjon are also playing at the Beethovenfest Bonn 2011: “Die Zelle in Nonnenwerth” and “La lugubre Gondola”. These works are complemented with “Nuage Gris”. The programme of the two concerts by Steckel and Rivinius also includes Kodály’s Sonatina for Cello and Piano and Bartók’s Romanian Folk Dances in the arrangement for piano, as well as his Rhapsody no. 1 for Cello and Piano Sz 88 (24 September).

Other established chamber-music formations are giving performances at the Beethovenfest. The **Hagen Quartett**, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, is performing on two consecutive evenings. On the first evening they will perform Beethoven’s String Quartet in B flat major op. 130, the Great Fugue op. 133 and his Quartet in C flat minor op. 131 (26 September). The programme of the second concert includes Haydn’s Quartet in E flat major op. 33/2, Brahms’s Quartet no. 3 in B flat major op. 67 and Bartók’s Quartet no. 4 in C major Sz 91 (27 September).

**Elena Bashkirova** returns to the Beethovenfest Bonn for two concerts with her **Ensemble of the Jerusalem Chamber Music Festival**. In her first concert she will perform Liszt’s Legend No. 1 “Saint François d’Assise, la prédication aux oiseaux” (“St Francis of Assisi preaching to the birds”) for piano S 175/1. Together with Mihaela Martin, violin, and Frans Helmerson, cello, she is playing Beethoven’s Symphony No. 2 in D major op. 36 in the composer’s own arrangement for violin, cello and piano. The clarinetist Pascal Moragues joins them for Brahms’s Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano in A minor op. 114 and Bartók’s “Contrast”, Dances for Violin, Clarinet and Piano Sz 111 (20 September). Pascal Moragues will also be present for the second concert of the ensemble, a performance of Schumann’s “Märchenerzählungen” for Clarinet, Viola and Piano op. 132 as well as György Kurtág’s homage to Schumann, the “Hommage à R. Sch.”. The viola will be played by Ori Kam, who is also playing the part in Schumann’s Quartet for Violin, Viola, Cello and Piano in E flat major op. 47. Mihaela Martin and Frans Helmerson will be performing in this work, as also in Kodály’s Duo for Violin and Cello op. 7. Franz Liszt’s “La lugubre Gondola” for violin and piano will be played by Bashkirova and Martin (21 September). Both concerts are taking place in association with the Jerusalem Chamber Music Festival.

Franz Liszt composed over 70 lieder, and three nights are being devoted to recitals at this year’s Beethovenfest Bonn, prepared exclusively by pianist **Eric Schneider**. On the Liszt Night soprano **Jutta Koch** and tenor **Matthias Stier**, accompanied by Eric Schneider on the piano, are performing some of his French songs, as well as well as songs by Giacomo Meyerbeer and Francis Poulenc, under the title “Franz Liszt and Paris” (24 September). **Matthias Goerne** and Eric Schneider illustrate Liszt’s relationship with Vienna in a recital with works by Hugo Wolf and Franz Liszt (25 September). A third recital concentrates on Liszt’s relationship with Bayreuth. Accompanied by Eric Schneider, **Claudia Barainsky** is singing lieder by Liszt, Hans von Bülow and Eugen d’Albert, who were all followers of the New German School of Music (23 September).

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