



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

Bonn, 28 August 2009

In the Light

Beethovenfest Bonn 2009 from 4 September to 3 October 2009 under the patronage of Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel

Beethoven was “a purely Romantic composer”, according to the assertion of E.T.A. Hoffmann. Not only did Beethoven’s influence leave its mark on the music of the Romantic period in which almost all musical genres made some reference to Beethoven’s work. Another development of Beethoven’s lifetime was that soloists increasingly emerged as musical personalities in their own right. Idealized view of the artist in the Romantic imagination: the cult of the celebrity and the genius was born, which continues to influence the musical world of our own time.

It is against this background that the motto “In the Light” is to be understood, drawing attention as it does to inimitable and fascinating artistic personalities who are never out of the limelight, such as Kent Nagano, Ingo Metzmacher, Sol Gabetta, Valerie Gergiev, Krzysztof Penderecki, Gustavo Dudamel, John Eliot Gardner, Thomas Hengelbrock and Maurizio Pollini. The Beethovenfest Bonn 2009 gives visitors the opportunity to confront innovative orchestral models and their programmatic approaches, for which the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, the Mahler Chamber Orchestra and the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen are exemplary. Under the baton of Paavo Järvi, the Kammerphilharmonie, the “orchestra-in-residence” since 2004, will ensure new listening experiences worldwide and multimedial with a Beethoven symphony cycle.

The cyclical performance of all of Beethoven’s 32 piano sonatas at the Beethovenfest Bonn 2009 is also part of the observation of the artist ideal brought forth by the Romantic movement. The leading exponents of the fortepiano will be performing at the Beethovenfest: Andreas Staier, Christine Schornsheim, Mari Kodama, Ronald Brautigam, Alexander Melnikov and Andrea Lucchesini.

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

“In the Light” is not an exclusively programmatic concept; it also offers new perspectives through which to hear and see well-known pieces of music and familiar artists. During one weekend the Beethovenfest Bonn will put the string-quartet genre into the limelight. In the context of a string-quartet project, four young, international string quartets will show the development this grouping has undergone since Beethoven’s time and what potential it has today. To do this familiar concert formats are relaxed, making possible new kinds of perspectives on the artistic effect of the string quartet form. Genre boundaries and conventional structures are also cast aside in the Classic meets Hip Hop concerts with the hip hop band einshoch6 and the Minguet Quartett. The event is being organized completely by a student management team.

60 years’ existence of the Federal Republic of Germany is celebrated by the Beethovenfest Bonn 2009 in the “Path of Democracy”. Six politically significant locations in Bonn have been chosen to represent one decade each of musical history. The Beethovenfest Bonn will also dedicate events to other anniversaries: for the bicentenary of Felix Mendelssohn’s birth and the 250th anniversary of George Frideric Handel’s death visitors will be able to hear the great oratorios “Elijah”, the “Messiah” and “Israel in Egypt”. Heralding another anniversary is the Orchestra Campus of Deutsche Welle and the Beethovenfest Bonn with the university orchestra of the Vietnam National Academy of Music Hanoi: 2010 will see the 35th anniversary of relations between Germany and Vietnam.

For the Beethovenfest Bonn 2009 there are 48,500 tickets for 75 events at 29 venues in Bonn and the surrounding area on sale. More than two-thirds of the concerts are projects created exclusively for the Beethovenfest Bonn. A large number of the concerts will be broadcast by the Westdeutscher Rundfunk as well as by Deutschlandfunk/DeutschlandRadio Kultur and by Deutsche Welle. The Beethovenfest is made possible by the support of many sponsors and foundations, public funds and media partners.

The patronage of the Beethovenfest in the year of the Federal Republic’s 60th anniversary has been assumed for the first time by Chancellor Dr. Angela Merkel.

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

Deutsche Post DHL

 Sparkasse
KölnBonn

DEUTSCHE WELLE


 WDR 3
Kulturpartner

FREUDE.
JOY.
JOIE.
BONN.