



BEETHOVENFEST BONN

Bonn, 2 September 2011

Music of the Future. Beethoven, Liszt and Innovation in Music

**Beethovenfest Bonn 2011 from 9 September to 9 October 2011 under the
patronage of State Premier Hannelore Kraft**

In this Liszt bicentenary year, the Beethovenfest Bonn is looking back on its long tradition: in 1845 Franz Liszt organized a three-day music festival to mark the unveiling of the Beethoven Memorial on Bonn's Münsterplatz on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the composer's birth. Under the **motto "Music of the Future"** the Beethovenfest Bonn 2011 is introducing Liszt as a personality, visionary, patron, virtuoso and composer, who revered Beethoven and, starting from here, developed his own "music of the future" whose influence was still felt in the 20th century.

Liszt was the founder of the "New German School", which was concerned to redefine the position of the artist in society. Alongside composition, music criticism as an intellectual confrontation with music was seen as essential, and the musician thus became an intellectual. The "New Germans", with Liszt and Wagner at their focus, demanded progress in music, e.g. in the form of the musical drama, or the symphonic poem, a genre which Liszt invented.

The Beethovenfest Bonn is approaching Liszt the innovator by taking an historical look at **Liszt's relationship to music history**, and placing this relationship in a topical context. The composer of avantgarde music, of symphonies, of religious and folk music, of lieder and of chamber music is at the focus of our **Liszt Night**. His influence on his contemporaries and on later composers such as Wagner, Richard Strauss, Schönberg, Bartók, Kodály and Kurtág is traced by Beethovenfest in a series of exclusive programmes. Following the tradition of Liszt's concern with **Hungarian folk music**, the Beethovenfest has invited musicians and ensembles who foster the musical heritage of eastern Europe and the Balkans: the cimbalom player Ágnes Szakály, Fanfare Ciocărlia, the Roma and Sinti Philharmonic, the Gypsy Devils with Paul Gulda and Goran Bregović.

In addition, internationally acclaimed soloists will also be appearing in Bonn once more: Anne-Sophie Mutter, Hélène Grimaud, Murray Perahia, Arcadi Volodos, Christian Gerhaher and Elena Bashkirova. At the Beethovenfest Bonn 2011 there will be three **"orchestras in residence"**: the Deutsche Kammerphilharmonie Bremen

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under Paavo Järvi, the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra under Manfred Honeck, and the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sir Colin Davis and Sir John Eliot Gardiner. Other top orchestras are coming to the festival, including Zubin Mehta and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Riccardo Chailly and the Gewandhausorchester, Rotterdams Philharmonisch Orkest under its chief conductor Yannick Nézet-Séguin, the Budapest Festival Orchestra under Iván Fischer, the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Sakari Oramo, the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Sylvain Cambreling, Anima Eterna and Jos van Immerseel and Concerto Köln with Ivor Bolton. Julian Rachlin, Iveta Apkalna, Arabella Steinbacher, Mihaela Ursuleasa, Nikolai Tokarev, Martin Stadtfeld, Linus Roth, Eugene Ugorski and Dejan Lazić are among the musicians who will be making their Beethovenfest Bonn **debut** in 2011.

Appearing for the first time outside their home country are the **National Youth Orchestra of Iraq** with their conductor Paul MacAlindin; they have been invited to the "Orchestra Campus" by Deutsche Welle and the Beethovenfest Bonn. In order to demonstrate the artistic and cultural potential of the contemporary Iraqi music scene, Deutsche Welle has for the first time commissioned two works in this context, one from an Arab composer, Mohammed Amin Ezzat, and another from a Kurd, Ali Authman. The **patron** of the Orchestra Campus is the president of Germany, **Christian Wulff**.

A further composition has been commissioned by the Beethovenfest in association with BBC Radio 3 from **Rebecca Saunders**: Carolin Widmann is the soloist in the first performance of "still" (2011) for solo violin and symphony orchestra, with the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sylvain Cambreling.

At the Beethovenfest Bonn 2011 under the **patronage of the North Rhine Westphalian state premier Hannelore Kraft, 44,500 tickets for 64 events in the main programme** at 25 venues in Bonn and the surroundings are waiting to be sold. This has been made possible by a grant from Bonn City Council and the adjoining district, the Rhein-Sieg Kreis, as well as through a project-specific grant by the state government of North Rhine Westphalia and the German Foreign Ministry. The **main sponsors**, Deutsche Post DHL, Sparkasse KölnBonn, and Deutsche Welle have been supporting the Beethovenfest for many years, and a large number of other sponsors and foundations should not be forgotten in this connexion. In addition, the Beethovenfest Bonn has **media partnerships** with the local newspaper, the Bonner General-Anzeiger, the regional broadcaster Westdeutscher Rundfunk, the national radio stations Deutschlandfunk / Deutschlandradio Kultur, and the external broadcaster Deutsche Welle. Deutsche Welle will be broadcasting a number of concerts worldwide, and making these available on podcast. The Beethovenfest Bonn is present on **Web 2.0.** on Facebook, Twitter, Vimeo, YouTube and Flickr.

The complete programme with a total of 164 events in the main and accompanying programmes is published in the Beethovenfest magazine.

Tickets can be bought in advance from Bonnticket by telephone under +49-228-50201313 (Mo-Fr 8 a.m. – 8 p.m., Sat 9 a.m. – 4 p.m., Sun 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.), by e-mail under beethovenfest@bonnticket.de, in the internet under www.beethovenfest.de. From 18 March written applications can be sent to the Beethovenfest Bonn or to: BONNTICKET, Platz der Vereinten Nationen 2, 53113 Bonn, Germany.

Photographs of the artists and the Beethovenfest Bonn 2011 venues can be downloaded from <http://www.beethovenfest.de/downloads>.

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