



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

Bonn, 11 October 2004

Beethovenfest Bonn 2004 concluded with great success 88 percent utilisation

With a performance of Dvořák's Violin Concerto and Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 by the Philharmonia Orchestra London under the young Venezuelan Gustavo Dudamel and violinist Leonidas Kavakos the Beethovenfest Bonn 2004 concluded yesterday evening with standing ovations. It was the first Beethovenfest under the direction of Ilona Schmiel. 88 percent of the 37.500 seats were sold. Since 17 September, 55 concerts and other performances in music and theatre took place in venues throughout Bonn and its surrounding area, 33 of which were sold out. More than 50 performances presented in the master program of this year's festival attracted a great audience, too. The concerts that were sold out included the opening concert of the Bamberger Symphoniker under Jonathan Nott, the "Piano Night", the concert of the Deutsche Symphonie-Orchester Berlin under Kent Nagano and the guest appearance of the Finnish Radio Symphony Orchestra under Sakari Oramo. A cycle with Beethoven's violin sonatas which was presented by "Artist in Residence" Christian Tetzlaff and pianist Alexander Lonquich on three evenings as well as a concert by five master pupils of Boris Pergamenschikow in remembrance of this artist were sold out completely.

This year's festival was titled "Bohemia" and focused on the biographical, historical and musical connections between Beethoven and the bohemian-moravian culture. "For the first time the leading cultural institutions in Bonn cooperated that closely to serve a general topic. I am glad, that our programme of high quality with numerous concerts, exhibitions, lectures and film presentations attracted such a great audience and that the Beethovenfest increasingly becomes an event, which embraces the whole city", said Artistic Director Ilona Schmiel. "This was also possible because of the immense support of our promoters and sponsors and it is a positive sign that we could win a lot of new sponsors and promoters for the Beethovenfest."

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This year, the Beethovenfest for the first time attended to education and the communication with children and teenagers. Apart from a “musical paper chase” through the Beethovenhalle many artists offered workshops for pupils. Furthermore the orchestra campus took place in cooperation with the Deutsche Welle for the fourth time. Under the patronage of Federal Chancellor Schröder the orchestra of the national conservatory in Peking visited Bonn for one week to give a celebrated concert with the Chinese piano star Yundi Li and to rehearse Antonín Dvořák’s Symphony No. 9 in additional rehearsals with musicologist and conductor Peter Gülke.

Beethovenfest Bonn and Theater Bonn cooperated in a joint presentation of Leoš Janáček’s opera “Aus einem Totenhaus” in a new production by Slovenian director Tomaz Pandur and of a musical theatre project by director Achim Freyer.

The interest of the media in the Beethovenfest Bonn 2004 was immense. Half of the 55 performances were recorded by the Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR), the Deutsche Welle, and the DeutschlandRadio/Deutschlandfunk. The Westdeutscher Rundfunk (WDR) produced a 30 minute feature about the orchestra campus, which will be broadcast on TV soon. The Chinese state television CCTV, the most prominent Chinese newspapers and many journalists from all over Europe reported about the Beethovenfest.

Next year, the Beethovenfest Bonn will take place from 8 September until 2 October 2005. The programme will be announced in March. On 17 March 2005 the Beethovenfest will present a special concert with the NDR Sinfonieorchester and pianist Garrick Ohlsson under the direction of Christoph von Dohnányi. The programme includes Maurice Ravel’s Piano Concert G major and Ludwig van Beethoven’s Symphony No. 5. Tickets for this concert will be available from 27 November onwards.

Information and tickets at BONNTICKET > tel.: 0180-500 1812 (0,12 € / Min.) > fax: +49 (0)228-910 4111 > email: tickets@bonnticket.de > internet: www.beethovenfest.de

Further information can be obtained by phone at +49-228-2010345 or via the Internet at www.beethovenfest.de. Ticket orders may already be placed in writing, either by fax at +49-228-910 4111, by e-mail at tickets@bonnticket.de, or by normal mail at BonnTicket, Adenauerallee 131, D-53113 Bonn, Germany.

Advance ticket sales began on **April 21**, from which point orders may also be placed by phone at +49-180-500 1812 or via the Internet at www.beethovenfest.de.

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