



BEETHOVENFEST BONN

Bonn, 11. September 2008

More than 3,000 music fans at the “Public Viewing” to see and hear Beethoven’s Ninth

The “**public viewing**” at the Beethovenfest Bonn 2008 attracted more than 3,000 music fans to Bonn’s Marktplatz on Wednesday evening. The concert by Kurt Masur and the Orchestre National de France in the Beethovenhalle – a sell-out – was transmitted live to a large screen in front of the Old City Hall on the Marktplatz. Many of the maestro’s fans, plus many who were just curious, listened in enchantment to the concert, whose conductor was celebrating his 60th concert-stage anniversary on this very day. Not only that, but he was being presented with the Wilhelm Furtwängler Prize 2008. When the “Ode to Joy” chorus in the fourth movement of Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony rang out over the square, the audience at the public viewing held their breath. An outstanding concert had reached its climax, and it was not only in the concert hall itself that Kurt Masur, das Orchestre National de France, the Choeur de Radio France and the soloists Melanie Diener, Carolin Masur, Christian Elsner and Hanno Müller-Brachmann received standing ovations. With this performance, the four-day Beethoven symphony cycle by Kurt Masur and the Orchestre National de France came to an end. This was the second time the Beethovenfest Bonn had organized a public viewing in co-operation with Deutsche Welle and the support of Deutsche Post WorldNet and city-centre retailers in Bonn: the first had been in 2007. The programme on the stage in the Marktplatz began an hour and a half before the concert itself; from 6.30pm, the Deutsche Welle presenter Meike Krüger introduced a series of warm-up items to put the outdoor audience in the mood.

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

Pictures from the public-viewing event at the 2007 Beethovenfest Bonn 2007 with Gustavo Dudamel and the Simón Bolívar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela have been immortalized in the film “**The Promise of Music**”. In 2007 the performance of the 220 young Venezuelans and their conductor, who was then aged just 26, at the Beethovenfest Bonn was filmed by a camera crew under Enrique Sánchez Lansch equipped with 10 HD cameras. Together with footage filmed during a three-week visit by the crew to Caracas, the result was a 90-minute film “The Promise of Music”, which was premiered at a film festival in Los Angeles at the beginning of this month. On 22 September it will be shown unabridged for the first time in the presence of the director in the Rheinisches Landesmuseum at 7.30pm. The DVD was released by Deutsche Grammophon at the end of August. Anyone interested can see the film premiere free of charge. Please reserve your place under info@beethovenfest.de by 18 September 2008 at the latest.

A world star even more youthful than Gustavo Dudamel will appear at the Beethovenfest Bonn on Saturday, 13 September: the 25-year-old multi-percussionist **Martin Grubinger** from Salzburg. He will begin the concert on the Petersberg with Witold Lutoslawski's Paganini Variations arranged for two pianos and additional percussion. Beethoven himself had written a “Great Fugue” op. 133 for four-hands piano, and the Fugue in B-flat major op. 134 is being played by Lilya Zilberstein and Alfredo Perl, together with Brahms' Variations for two pianos on a Theme by Joseph Haydn in B-flat major op. 56b. After that, Martin Grubinger will play his own composition “Aus dem Leben einer Trommel” (“From the Life of a Drum”), followed by an original work for an unusual ensemble of instruments: Bartok's Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion, composed in 1937.

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