

Media information

Sparkasse KölnBonn and its Foundation, Stiftung Ludwig van Beethoven der Sparkasse in Bonn, commit to the Beethovenfest – the music event leads out “Into the Open”

31 August 2010

For four weeks in the autumn, Bonn will once more become the Mecca for music-lovers of all ages: top international orchestras and celebrated soloists, high-calibre ensembles and talented new blood guarantee a pleasurable experience for the senses at the Beethovenfest 2010.

Sparkasse KölnBonn, together with its foundation “Stiftung Ludwig van Beethoven” set up in 1997, are this year once again contributing some 290,000 euros towards this major musical event whose importance can be measured far beyond the confines of the region and indeed on the global stage. “The festival has become indispensable to the city’s music scene, and is one of the high points in the international festival calendar,” says Artur Grzesiek, Chairman of the Board of Sparkasse KölnBonn. Culture needs not just locations, but also friends and patrons, which is why, he says, Sparkasse KölnBonn supports the Beethovenfest. Since the festival was first staged in 1999, his organization and its associated foundation have made far more than three million euros available for the musical event.

This year’s programme leads “Into the Open” and has as its theme “Utopia and Freedom in Music”. It focuses on two composers at the centre of whose works are visions and the almost revolutionary will to access a place where boundaries are plumbed and transcended. For Robert Schumann, who spent the final years of his life in nearby Endenich and is buried at Bonn’s Old Cemetery, Ludwig van Beethoven, the city’s great son, was the unmistakable role model and standard. Schumann, who was born in Zwickau in Saxony in 1810, in other words 200 years ago, experienced his most productive period in the Rhineland. One third of his total oeuvre was composed here. As in his great predecessor, we find in Schumann, too, not only romantic feelings of

yearning and passion, awareness of his own individuality, but also hints of the darker side of the soul, of mystery and secrets.

“We look forward once more to an attractive, high-quality and unusual programme, which for the many visitors will open up a whole series of new impressions and musical surprises,” said Artur Grzesiek.