

Presseamt der Stadt Bonn

Mayor Nimptsch: Bonn honours Beethoven “con brio”

The mayor wishes the Beethovenfest 2010 “the success which it undoubtedly deserves” – a five-star programme

ib Bonn - To mark the opening of the Beethovenfest 2010 Mayor Jürgen Nimptsch has wished the festival “the success it deserves”. He thanked Intendant Ilona Schmiel and her team, who, with 67 concerts, have created a “five-star programme”. With 83 further events in the accompanying programme, he said, there was something for everyone, some of it even free of charge. At the same time, this certainly did not mean that “anything goes”. “We are honouring our most famous son ‘con brio’, with fire, with inspiration, with spirit,” said the mayor at the press conference held to usher in the festival.

It is Mr Nimptsch’s first Beethovenfest as mayor and chairman of the festival supervisory board. To promote music was not, he said, a sign of too much money to spend, but rather was part of a city’s basic responsibilities. This year, Bonn is making some 1.3 million euros available for the Beethovenfest, and next year, in spite of a hard-pressed budget, this sum is being raised to 1.6 million euros. The city has, additionally, invested 100,000 euros this year to prepare the Beethovenhalle for the festival. Nimptsch referred once again to the study on the economics of the event: for every euro invested in the festival by the city, four euros would flow back to Bonn and the region.

Nimptsch expressed his pleasure at the way young people were being integrated into the Beethovenfest. The musical youth of Bonn were staging the opening ceremony on 11 September in Bonn and Bad Godesberg, where young musicians, including pupils of the city’s music school, are appearing on eight stages. As last year, there is to be a concert organized by school students: on 18 September: violinist Daniel Hope & Friends are performing in the Dransdorf Tram Depot. And school classes will also have an opportunity to take a look behind the scenes. “This is what we have to do to attract young people to music as early as possible,” said the mayor, and he went on to mention the CD of Beethoven music which he was sending to all new parents in Bonn.

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