

Deutsche Welle: Iraq chosen as Orchestra Campus partner country

- **National Youth Orchestra from Iraq to perform abroad for the first time**
- **Patron is German President Christian Wulff**

As part of Deutsche Welle's Orchestra Campus initiative, the National Youth Orchestra of Iraq (NYOI) will be performing at this year's Beethovenfest in Bonn, with German President Christian Wulff acting as patron. The youth orchestra has brought together young musicians from differing ethnicities and religions and it is the first time that they will be performing outside of Iraq. Deutsche Welle will be presenting the orchestra in workshops and concerts in Bonn, as well as exclusively in Berlin. Germany's international broadcaster is also planning on recording a concert live, which will be offered as a podcast at www.dw-world.de/beethoven as well as on CD. The concert will feature works from Beethoven, Haydn and contemporary composers from Iraq, and will be rebroadcast by Deutsche Welle's partners in Latin America, Russia and the USA.

The orchestra's 45 musicians are between the ages of 18 and 28. It was the then 19-year-old pianist Zuhail Sultan who dreamt up the idea of starting a national youth orchestra in Iraq in 2008. There hadn't been a national symphony orchestra in the country since 1959 – when Shiites, Sunnis, Christians, Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen played together.

As part of this year's Orchestra Campus, Deutsche Welle has also commissioned two composers to create new pieces of music: The Arab composer Mohammed Amin Ezzat from Baghdad and the Kurd composer Ali Authman, who currently lives in the Netherlands.

Both works will be premiered on October 1, 2011, under the direction of Paul MacAlindin at the Beethovenfest in Bonn. The evening will also feature Beethoven's concert for the violin with soloist Arabella Steinbacher and Joseph Haydn's Symphony Nr. 104.

As media partner, Deutsche Welle is making the Beethovenfest a global event: via

radio in 30 languages, television in English, German and Spanish – and online at www.dw-world.de/beethoven.

Since last fall, Beethoven fans from around the globe have listened to Deutsche Welle's podcasts and audio content from the Beethovenfest more than 500,000 times. Deutsche Welle also offers live recordings from concerts that took place from 2001 to 2010. Among others, users can download the Beethoven cycle from the German Chamber Philharmonic Bremen and its star conductor Paavo Järvi, as well as the Orchestre National de France with Kurt Masur. The archive also features the Beaux Arts Trio, the pianist Elena Bashkirova, the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn and the pianist Paul Lewis, as well as youth orchestras from Russia, Egypt, South Africa, China, Georgia, Poland, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam and Brazil. The young musicians have been part of the Orchestra Campus from Deutsche Welle and the Beethovenfest since 2001. The orchestras play symphonies from Beethoven as well as period pieces from young composers who are commissioned by Deutsche Welle.

Deutsche Welle has already begun to report on the upcoming festival and starting in April the broadcaster will promote the Beethovenfest worldwide – including television spots on DW-TV. In total, Deutsche Welle will produce more than 5,000 minutes of programming with reports from the Beethovenfest. In addition to the audio content, there are also features and articles online.

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www.beethovenfest.de

www.dw-world.de/beethoven

Press: www.dw-world.de/press

Insider Blog: <http://blogs.dw-world.de/insider>

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