

Media information

Sparkasse KölnBonn and its Foundation “Stiftung Ludwig van Beethoven der Sparkasse in Bonn” are committed to and involved in the Beethovenfest under the motto “Music of the Future”

2 September 2011

For four weeks in the autumn, Bonn is once more the mecca for music-lovers of all ages: top international orchestras and celebrated soloists, high-calibre ensembles and talented young artists will guarantee a sensory experience of exceptional quality at the Beethovenfest 2011.

With its grants, the Sparkasse KölnBonn and its foundation, set up in 1997, “Stiftung Ludwig van Beethoven der Sparkasse in Bonn” are helping this year too to make possible the staging of this major musical event whose charisma radiates far and wide. “The festival has become indispensable for the city’s musical life, and a high point in the international festival calendar,” says Artur Grzesiek, the Chairman of the Board of the Sparkasse KölnBonn. Since the first modern Beethovenfest in 1999, the company and its foundation have together donated far more than three million euros to the event.

And they find themselves in good company with the composer and musician whom the Beethovenfest is particularly commemorating in 2011: Franz Liszt. For in 1845 Liszt organized not only a three-day music festival, so to speak the first Beethovenfest in Bonn, to mark the 75th anniversary of Beethoven’s birth, but also made a major financial contribution to the Beethoven Memorial on Bonn’s Münsterplatz, which was unveiled on this occasion, by e.g. giving charity concerts. Under the motto “Music of the Future. Beethoven, Liszt and Innovation in Music”, this year’s Beethovenfest is casting light on the relationship between the two musicians. For both as pianist and conductor, as well as composer, arranger, teacher and as publisher of Beethoven’s music, Liszt occupied himself throughout his life with Bonn’s great son.

“We are looking forward once more to an attractive, high-quality and unusual programme that promises an abundance of impressions and musical surprises for the numerous visitors,” says Grzesiek.