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PRESS RELEASE

Beethoven's birthplace in Bonn: Top destination for culture trips in 2020

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On the occasion of Beethoven's 250th anniversary in 2020, the Beethoven-Haus has redesigned its museum and will offer a special event programme. Tour operators can already book any tourism offerings.

As one of the most frequently visited museums worldwide dedicated to a musician, Beethoven's birthplace invites travellers interested in culture to visit the Beethoven-Haus in 2020 and experience the composer's life and work at the original settings. Leveraging its position as a cultural institution with international connections, the Beethoven-Haus is proud to present a new permanent exhibition and an exceptional anniversary programme lasting one year starting in December 2019 to celebrate Beethoven's 250th anniversary. Admission to the museum offerings and concert highlights planned in 2020 can now be booked for groups and individual travellers.

Redesigned museum

The museum housed at Beethoven's original preserved birthplace was thoroughly refurbished and extended. From the end of 2019 onwards, visitors can experience the composer's life and oeuvre in an engaging and exciting way. The new exhibition carried out with the Zurich architect office Holzer Kobler Architekturen offers an informative and emotional access to more than 200 original exhibits from the world-famous collection, such as original manuscripts, instruments, daily-life items, Beethoven's ear trumpets as well as portraits. Among the new additions are a music room where films are shown and performances on historic music instruments and lectures take place regularly, sensory rooms featuring audio-visual content related to Beethoven's time in Bonn, a "treasure chamber" with autographs, a separate area for temporary exhibitions as well as a modern shop, cafeteria and lecture rooms.

Temporary exhibitions on special topics

For 2020, five specific exhibitions are scheduled, among them "Joseph Stieler's Beethoven portrait and its history" (December 16, 2019 until April 26, 2020), "Bernstein's Beethoven" from June 18 until October 4, 2020 and "Beethoven as a contemporary" (November 12, 2020 until March 3, 2021).

International conventions and special music events throughout the whole year complement the museum programme.

Beethoven Week 2020: Beethoven's complete chamber music presented at one festival

From January 17 to February 9, 2020 our visitors may experience the whole spectrum of Beethoven's chamber music at one single festival. The artistic programme of the so-called "BTHVN WEEK" was compiled by Beethoven-Haus President Tabea Zimmermann and offers "Beethoven pure" on 16 evenings. For a number of reasons, this festival deserves to be called exceptional. These are the chamber music hall as a truly unique venue, an unusual programme mix of different genres and artists as well as an impressive "line up" featuring excellent chamber musicians such as, among others, Isabel Faust, Quatuor Ebène and Kristian Bezuidenhout.

Beethoven's piano sonatas and exclusive concert projects

Next on the agenda and spread over the anniversary year is an sonata cycle presented by the renowned Russian piano player Evgeni Koroliov who has gained a superb reputation for his tender and subtle interpretations. The sonata cycle will take place exclusively at the Beethoven-Haus on seven Friday evenings. It is complemented by seven corresponding Saturday concerts where younger piano players will perform other Beethoven compositions.

Finally, the Beethoven-Haus has successfully won the following seven exceptional artists and ensembles for some very special projects that will take place during single concerts and smaller festivals at the Beethoven-Haus: Mitsuko Uchida, Daniel Hope, Martin Stadtfeld, the Artemis Quartet, Andrés Schiff, the Ensemble Musikfabrik and jazz pianist Uri Caine. A charity concert with Anne-Sophie Mutter to be held at the chamber music hall on December 16, 2020 will mark the end of the anniversary year.

An events schedule for the anniversary year along with information on booking options is available at the ITB 2019 tourism trade fair, can be obtained on request or downloaded from www.beethoven.de.

Specific offerings for group travel operators are summarised in an extra brochure.

Please direct your request to the staff of the museum office at museum@beethoven.de.

Press photographs are available on request.

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You may also visit us at booth 103 of the cities of Bonn, Düsseldorf and Cologne at the ITB trade fair in hall 8.2.

About the Beethoven-Haus Bonn:

The Beethoven-Haus Bonn association, founded in 1889, is the worldwide leading Beethoven centre. It strives to preserve Beethoven's life, work and heritage. The Beethoven-Haus Bonn includes the world's most important Beethoven collection, the museum at Beethoven's birth place attracting over 100,000 visitors per year, a scientific research department dedicated to music with its own library and publishing house as well as the Hermann J. Abs chamber music hall. Thanks to the engagement and support of 900 friends, patrons and members from more than 20 countries as well as the German government, the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Rhineland

Regional Council and the city of Bonn, the association carries out various cultural tasks and initiatives of national and international importance. Since 2013 Tabea Zimmermann, a renowned violist, chamber musician and professor, has been serving as President. In 2016 the non-profit institution Beethoven Jubiläums Gesellschaft was founded under the umbrella of the Beethoven-Haus Foundation to coordinate and promote Beethoven's 250th anniversary in 2020.