

# BEETHOVEN FEST BONN

## PRESS RELEASE

### Beethovenfest Bonn 2020

Bonn, March 2020 - As part of **Beethoven's 250th birthday celebration in 2020**, Beethovenfest Bonn will feature numerous events sponsored by BTHVN2020 with funding from the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM), the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, the City of Bonn and Rhein-Sieg Kreis (Rhein-Sieg County).

#### **August 21, 2020: Missa Solemnis Op. 123 and the GESANG DER JÜNGLINGE (special concert in the Cologne Cathedral)**

A very special concert in the Cologne Cathedral will feature **Kent Nagano, Concerto Köln** and the **Vokalensemble Kölner Dom** performing Beethoven's Missa Solemnis Op. 123 along with the Gesang der Jünglinge by Karlheinz Stockhausen. In addition to a live WDR 3 broadcast for the ARD Radiofestival, fans can enjoy live radio broadcasts at the Roncalliplatz square in Cologne and the Marktplatz square in Bonn. Westdeutscher Rundfunk will also record the concert for television broadcasts on ARTE and WDR. The concert will also serve as the musical highlight of the "NRW-Tag 2020" festival taking place in Cologne from August 21 - 23.

Starting **March 2, 2020 at 9 a.m.**, free tickets for the special August 21 concert in the Cologne Cathedral can be ordered by **telephone** and **online** only – by telephone through the Bonnticket hotline at **+49 (0)228 - 50 20 13 13** (Mo. - Fr. 8am - 8pm, Sat. 9am - 6pm, Sun. 10am - 4pm) and **online** at [www.beethovenfest.de/en](http://www.beethovenfest.de/en). Tickets are limited to 2 per person. Please also note that some seats in the cathedral will have obstructed views of the concert.

#### **September 4 - 27, 2020 "Auferstehn, ja auferstehn" (Rise again, yes rise again)**

The official theme of Beethovenfest Bonn 2020 – "Rise again, yes, rise again" ("Auferstehn, ja auferstehn") – is taken from a poem by Friedrich Gottlieb Klopstock, which was later set to music by Gustav Mahler in his Symphony No. 2. After opening with a performance of Beethoven's Ninth, this year's fall festival will culminate with a performance of this great Mahler symphony, also known as the Resurrection Symphony ("Auferstehungssymphonie"). Between these two sublime works, audiences can look forward to a very ambitious program that tells a story about Beethoven's own origins, about his contemporaries, and about how and where his impact is still felt today.

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Forming the dramatic framework of Beethovenfest 2020 are two major, and related, orchestral works. Opening the festival will be **Beethoven's Ninth Symphony** performed by the **Bayreuth Festival Choir and Orchestra** under the direction of Marek Janowski. To close the festival, the **Mahler Chamber Orchestra** led by Maxime Pascal will perform Gustav Mahler's **Resurrection Symphony**.

The **Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra** under longtime principal conductor Manfred Honeck comes to Bonn to perform Beethoven's Violin Concerto featuring soloist **Anne-Sophie Mutter**. And we especially look forward to pianist **Igor Levit**. Together with the **Orchestra dell'Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia** and under the direction of Sir Antonio Pappano, he performs the seldom played Piano Concerto by Ferruccio Busoni together with male choir – another example of vocal-symphonic augmentation of traditional genres in the footsteps of Beethoven's Ninth. The **Hungarian National Symphony** under the direction of Zoltan Harnad reflects on the echoes of Beethoven in **Franz Liszt's** symphonic poem "From the Cradle to the Grave". And Beethoven's long shadow reaches into the 20th Century with two very special performances: **Renaud Capuçon** (violin) and the **Basel Chamber Orchestra** / Sylvain Cambreling perform Beethoven's Violin Romances and Symphony No. 6 in addition to premiering a piece by Austrian composer **Georg Friedrich Haas**, while **Daniel Hope** (violin) and the **Zurich Chamber Orchestra** present a Beethoven-meets-Broadway program.

Additional 2020 festival highlights include the Beethoven-era "Leonore" operas, the complete cycle of Beethoven Symphonies transcribed for solo piano by Franz Liszt, as well as stage pieces by Romeo Castellucci and the Berlin artist collective Rimini Protokoll.

The complete Beethovenfest program overview is available for download via the Beethovenfest website at [www.beethovenfest.de/en](http://www.beethovenfest.de/en). Festival director Nike Wagner will introduce the Beethovenfest program in its entirety at a press conference in late March 2020.

**Tickets** are available through **Bonnticket** and all major **ticket offices**. Tickets can also be ordered by phone at +49 (0)228 - 50 20 13 13 (Mo. - Fr. 8am - 8pm, Sat. 9am - 6pm, Sun. 10am - 4pm) or online at [www.beethovenfest.de/en](http://www.beethovenfest.de/en).

**Beethovenfest Bonn 2021 will take place from September 10 - October 3, 2021.**

#### Press inquiries:

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