



## **Bürger für Beethoven**

Bürger für Beethoven (Citizens for Beethoven) is Bonn's largest cultural association, with 1,500 members. Its purpose is to promote Beethoven's music and preserve his memory in the city of his birth.

Bürger für Beethoven was founded in 1993 as a citizens' initiative in order to rescue Bonn's storied 'Beethovenfest'. When the festival was scrapped by the city's political authorities, the association organised its 'Beethoven Marathon' from 1995 to 1998. The success with Bonn's citizenry was enormous; and as a direct consequence of the association's commitment, the town council resolved to revive the Beethovenfest as an annual international festival.

Since 2001 'Bürger für Beethoven' has contributed a wide range of activities to the festival as friends and patrons of the Beethovenfest, including a shopwindow competition, exclusive ticket sales for its members, the annual award of the Beethoven Ring and the young people's competition 'Beethoven Bonnensis'. It also sponsors the 'Beethoventreff', a public round-table discussion held on a regular basis, and various other events, including a lecture-concert on 26 March (the day of Beethoven's death in 1827 and the anniversary of his first public concert in 1778), a commemoration of the unveiling of the Beethoven Monument on Münsterplatz on 12 August, and a musicians' breakfast in July to commemorate Haydn's meeting with Beethoven in the Bad Godesberg ballroom. One of the association's special concerns is to promote Bonn's image as a city of Beethoven, e.g. with the Beethoven Jubilee 2020 and the establishment of a virtual and real-time Beethoven tour.

'Bürger für Beethoven' works entirely as a non-profit organisation. All of its members are volunteers.

In 2006 'Bürger für Beethoven' was awarded the 'Kultur verbindet' Citizens' Prize from the City of Bonn for its commitment.