

Beethoven goes BEATHoven

International artists to remix the master's music

January 3rd 2020

Ludwig van Beethoven is among the most, if not the most performed and popular composer worldwide, yet usually you won't find his music in clubs and on festivals. Now, this is about to change: on the occasion of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday in the year 2020, an international network of musicians, particularly players of outer-European instruments, and producers of electronic music have reinterpreted 20 melodies from various works by the visionary composer. The result of the „World BEATHoven Project“ was premiered on January 3rd, 2020 as a public listening session in Bonn, and presented worldwide via the internet.

The music of the „World BEATHoven Project“ that is being funded by the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH in Bonn is being made available as an album and a sample databank online for free.

The idea to this project came from the Bonn based culture manager, geographer & DJ Darius Darek Roncoszek, who also took on the duties of artistic direction. „Beethoven has created a highly complex body of work, we quote from that and give these up to be remixed and rearranged“, says Roncoszek.

Together with Hans-Joachim Büsching, solo clarinetist of the Bonn Beethoven Orchestra, he selected music passages, some of which are motifs from hugely popular pieces such as the Moonlight Sonata, others being of relative obscurity. They were not recorded on classical orchestral instrumentation, but by 15 musicians that used instruments from all over the world, be it a Chinese zither (Guzheng), and African balafons.

Hans Zimmers sample library developer Felix Ohlert took on production management and created a sample databank that was the grounds and inspiration on which international producers generated new tracks.

The entire album and the sample databank are available for free under a creative-commons-licence: <http://www.taxi-mundjal.com/beethoven.html>

Malte Boecker, artistic director of the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH: „We celebrate the anniversary year 2020 under the motto of 'rediscover Beethoven' – the World BEATHoven Project is exemplary in this regard for the diversity and bandwidth of BTHVN2020. It stands out because it makes Beethoven's music compatible in a way that music producers can sample it.“

„It is the fusion of three worlds: the classical world, the global world, and the world of electronic music“, says Roncoszek. It is important to him and his culture organization „Taxi MunDJal MusiX“ to contribute with this project to the socio-ecological transformation. Following the release, he will present the album worldwide on zero-waste festivals and on bicycle-tours that span generations. Furthermore, chosen album tracks will be rearranged for a 35 piece brass orchestra, the Youth Brass Band NRW.

BTHVN

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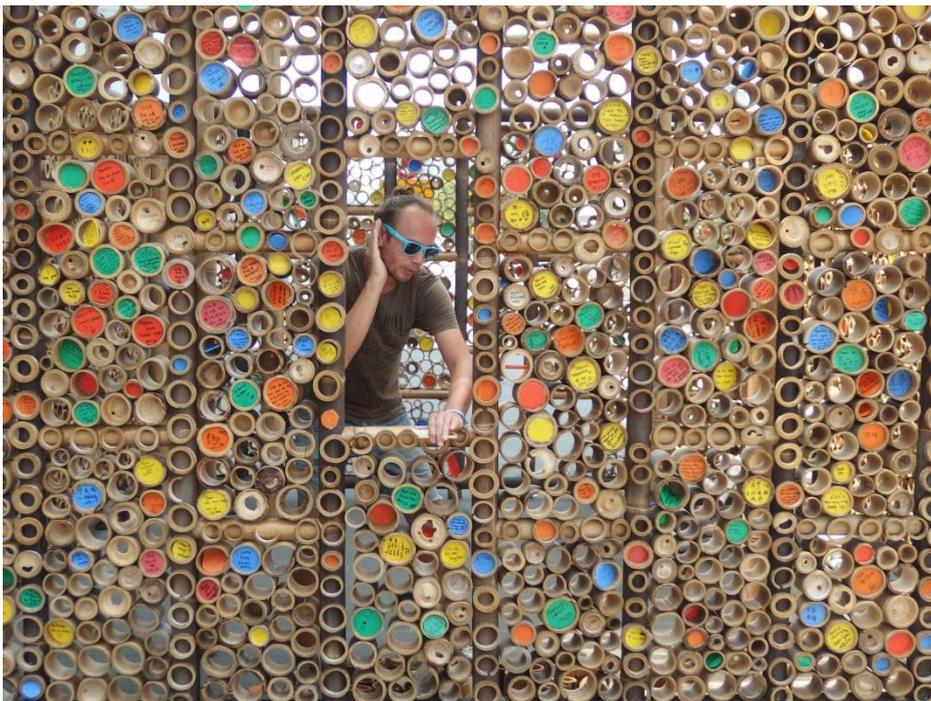
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Darius Darek Roncoszek, artistic director of the "World BEATHoven Project" and Malte Boecker, artistic director of the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH presenting the remix album. (Image source: Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH)



Darius Darek Roncoszek, cultural manager, geographer, DJ and artistic director of the "World BEATHoven Project" (Image source: Sophie Schraml)

About Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH: *The federal government, the land of Northrhine-Westphalia, the city of Bonn and the Rhein-Sieg-district instructed the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH, founded by the Beethovenhaus, to coordinate the 250 year anniversary as a national event with international appeal, and to shape the anniversary regarding content and to anchor the brand regionally. The contentional range spans more than 300 promoted projects. The overview of the anniversary year can viewed in the events calendar on www.bthvn2020.de/en.*

