

**BTHVN2020**

**Medical-musical symposium in October 2020 in Bonn  
'Beethoven: the heard and the deaf'**

*Bonn, June 18th, 2020*

What was the cause of Beethoven's hearing impairment and could modern medicine have helped him? What is the relationship between his increasing deafness and his musical creative process? What effect did the composer have on his time and beyond? - These and other questions will be explored by international scientists, doctors, and specialists from all over Europe in Bonn on 16 and 17 October 2020. The musical-medical symposium 'Beethoven - the Heard and the Deaf' is organized by Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH in cooperation with the University Hospital Bonn and the Freiburg Institute for Musicians' Medicine. Originally, the event, which is under the patronage of Prof. Dr. Nike Wagner, should have taken place on June 12 and 13.

"We are very pleased that this extraordinary project can be realized as early as 2020, despite a huge organizational effort. The symposium, with its music medicine perspectives, invites to rediscover and get to know Beethoven in a way that is entirely in keeping with the anniversary theme," explains Ralf Birkner, commercial director of Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH.

**A foretaste of 16 and 17 October 2020**

As a foretaste of the musical-medical symposium in October 2020, the organizers are now publishing first video sequences on the [official website](#) and social media channels of BTHVN2020.

In a video message Prof. Dr. med. Dr.h.c. mult. Wolfgang Holzgreve, MBA, Chairman of the Board and Medical Director of the University Hospital Bonn, Prof. Dr. Bernhard Richter, Director of the Freiburg Institute for Musician's Medicine, Prof. Dr. Claudia Spahn, Director of the Freiburg Institute for Musician's Medicine and Vice-Rector for Research at the Freiburg University of Music and Malte Boecker, Artistic Director of Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH provide insights into the two-day program. The well-known cabaret artist and musician Konrad Beikircher and the Max Brod Trio are also represented with a contribution.

'Beethoven: the Heard and the Deaf' has been postponed and will now take place on Friday, October 16, 2020, in the afternoon and on Saturday, October 17, 2020, all day, in the lecture hall of the Biomedical Center of the University Hospital Bonn (Building 13, Venusberg-Campus 1, 53127 Bonn, Germany). Those interested can register at <https://veranstaltungen.ukbonn.de/beethoven-symposium-2020>. Admission is free of charge.

All results of the symposium will be available afterwards on the official website as a free download.

Further information on the symposium can be found on the official website at <https://www.bthvn2020.de/en/program/sense-of-hearing->

**BTHVN**  
**2020**



**Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH**

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[symposium/](#)



Beethoven figurine by Ottmar Hörl wearing a mask. Credit: University Hospital Bonn.

**About Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH:** Beethoven's 250. anniversary is celebrated worldwide. The Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH, an affiliate of the Beethoven-Haus Foundation, is supported by the federal government, the land of North Rhine-Westphalia, the city of Bonn and the Rhein-Sieg-district and is instructed to coordinate a national program. Patron of the anniversary program with the slogan 'Rediscover Beethoven' is the German federal president Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The celebrations will continue up to and including September 2021. An up-to-date overview of the projects can be found in the calendar of events at [www.bthvn2020.de/en](http://www.bthvn2020.de/en).