

## Beethoven anniversary extended until September 2021 Most events will take place

Bonn, September 07th, 2020



*The BTHVN letter installation in the parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia.  
Picture source: Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH*

The celebrations in honour of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday set important cultural accents – even in times of corona-related restrictions: Thanks to the extension of the anniversary year until September 2021, a large part of the planned projects will take place.

The continuation of the anniversary was ensured by a decision of the supervisory board of the non-profit Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH in April 2020, which is coordinating the anniversary programme with the support of the Federal Government, the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, the City of Bonn and the Rhein-Sieg-district.

The federal structure of Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH and its decentralised funding structure make it possible to shape the anniversary programme despite the difficult situation emphasises Dr. Günter Winands, Head of Office at the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the non-profit limited liability company: "I am pleased that a large part of the planned projects and events will take place – the extension of the anniversary by 250 days, until September 2021, has created the framework for this. It is impressive to see with what special commitment, creativity and passion for the artist and the human being Beethoven the stakeholders are reorganising and redesigning their contributions for the anniversary. It is and will – without question – be a special, successful extended anniversary!"

Ralf Birkner, commercial director of Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH, explains: "Thanks to the far-sightedness of the Supervisory Board, we were able to signal to our sponsors at an early stage that we will continue. Hence the creative potential of the total of around 200 funded projects will probably still be able to unfold to a large extent after all – so far, we have only had eight cancellations."

# BTHVN 2020

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## **BTHVN2020: Anniversary programme with international appeal**

The anniversary programme has the slogan "Rediscover Beethoven" and summarised under the umbrella brand BTHVN2020. The centre of the nationwide event is the federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia, the city of Bonn and the Rhein-Sieg-district. Annette Storsberg, State Secretary in the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia and member of the Supervisory Board emphasises: "BTHVN2020 is a cultural flagship for North Rhine-Westphalia with supra-regional appeal. The extension of the festivities in times of the Corona pandemic now sends an important signal for cultural life in the state. Culture remains alive – and Beethoven with it."

The participatory anniversary programme and Beethoven's home region are also attracting considerable attention in both national and international media. With coverage in more than 40 countries and a total coverage of around 3.2 billion\*, the celebrations have a worldwide appeal that is expected to have a lasting effect on Beethoven's birthplace Bonn, the Rhein-Sieg district and the state of North Rhine-Westphalia.

Ashok Sridharan, Lord Mayor of the Federal City of Bonn, emphasises: "Celebrating a birthday for one year – that was our plan anyway. There is no question that the 'Beethoven Year plus 1' will also develop its charisma and reach people everywhere."

"In Beethoven's home region, we are very much looking forward to the many planned activities in which we will be involved in many different ways", says Sebastian Schuster, District Administrator of the Rhein-Sieg-district.

*\*Evaluation, media analysis Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH*

## **Programme planning is progressing: one fifth of events still planned for 2020**

A total of one fifth of the planned events are to be held in 2020. Highlights that are to take place this year include the concert of the well-known Scharoun Ensemble of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra on 11 October 2020, the [medical-musical symposium](#) on 16 and 17 October 2020 in cooperation with the University Hospital Bonn (UKB) and the Freiburg Institute for Musician's Medicine (FIM), or the [#beethoven Festival Bonn](#) of the PODIUM Esslingen from 17 to 24 October 2020, for whose innovative programme advance ticket sales have just started.

Planning is also progressing for Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH's own events scheduled for December 2020 – the BeethovenNight powered by Deutsche Telekom in cooperation with the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn on December 16, 2020, which will take place in the Telekom Forum in Bonn instead of the Telekom Dome, and the concert with Daniel Barenboim and the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra on December 17, 2020.

Originally, the events were to mark the finale of the celebrations. Now, as birthday highlights, they will form the starting signal for the extension together with Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th christening day on 17 December. Considering the current developments of the Corona Pandemic, Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH is planning various event scenarios. Further information on the events will be announced as planning progresses.

The central Beethoven Anniversary website [www.bthvn2020.de/en](http://www.bthvn2020.de/en) provides an up-to-date overview of the events as well as information on possible changes and restrictions. (Programme extracts for 2020 see below)

Tickets for Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH's own events will be offered at least five weeks before the start of each event.

**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).*

### Planned BTHVN2020 programme highlights 2020

September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 10.30 a.m. – Press Conference of the Beethovenfest GmbH, Chamber Music Hall, Beethoven-Haus Bonn

Until September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – [Play "TKKG prisoners in the past"](#), Young theatre

September 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – [Sound art installation "de symphonics"](#), Duisburg Landscape Park

September 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – [Theatrical site inspection "BAUPROBE BEETHOVEN"](#), Beethovenfest Bonn

from September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020 on – ["Organ culture in the Rhein-Sieg district"](#): Excursions, concerts, and organ camp in the Rhein-Sieg district

September 20<sup>st</sup>-30<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – [Film festival "Beethoven in film. Beethoven Film Festival"](#), City Museum Bonn

September 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – [Liberation opera "ELEONORE - I don't need to be happy"](#), MAM.manufaktur, Cologne

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – [Chamber music "The Long Concert Night"](#), Scharoun Ensemble of the Berlin Philharmonic, Bonn

October 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – [Medical-Musical Symposium](#), University Hospital Bonn (UKB) in cooperation with the Freiburg Institute for Musician Medicine (FIM)

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 – [Exhibition "Max Klinger and the artwork of the future"](#), Bundeskunsthalle, Bonn

October 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – [Festival #beethoven](#), PODIUM Esslingen, Bonn

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 to January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – [Exhibition "Bonn's Golden Age"](#), City Museum Bonn, Bonn

November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – [Exhibition "Hits and Hymns", Haus der Geschichte](#), Bonn

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 – [Special exhibition "Ignition: Beethoven"](#), Beethoven-Haus Bonn

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – [Event "BeethovenNight powered by Deutsche Telekom"](#), Telekomforum, Bonn

December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – [Anniversary concert with Daniel Barenboim](#), Bonn Opera House, Bonn