

## Germany-wide BTHVN2020 Anniversary Celebrates Beethoven's 250th Birthday and is being extended

BeethovenNight powered by Telekom and anniversary concert broadcasted live by WDR in Bonn

# BTHVN 2020



*Beethoven as Cosmopolitan © Sonja Werner*

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Mid-December marks the 250th birthday of Ludwig van Beethoven – the highlight of the Germany-wide anniversary celebrations BTHVN2020, which have been extended until September 2021 due to the corona pandemic. Due to recent corona protection measures, cultural events with an audience are unfortunately not possible. The Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH, which coordinates the nationwide programme, is therefore planning two major television and streaming projects on December 16th and 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. In addition, there will be further activities around Beethoven's birthday.

Malte Boecker, Artistic Director of Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH, explains that the events are not only dedicated to the great composer: "Despite the restrictions imposed by the corona pandemic, our aim is to send a signal from Beethoven's birthplace Bonn – in honour of the great composer, but also, and in particular, for the future of music and a culture of togetherness, which we are celebrating in his spirit, especially in 2020."

Ralf Birkner, commercial director of Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH, emphasises: "Our efforts are directed towards culture and its protagonists. We are in close contact with our funding recipients in order to enable the implementation of as many projects as possible within BTHVN2020. With the events in December, which will also be broadcasted on TV, radio and the internet, we want to let as many people as possible participate in Beethoven's birthday". The WDR is the leading national and international broadcaster in this respect within the framework of the ARD Beethoven Year. Deutsche Telekom is an official supporter of the anniversary.

## **December 17, 2020 – Anniversary Concert**

- **Free transmission on TV on 3sat from 8.15 p.m. (CET), on WDR television from 10.15 p.m. (CET) and on affiliated EBU stations; on WDR 3, ARD and EBU radio from 8.15 p.m. (CET)**
- **Online streaming via [bthvn2020.de](http://bthvn2020.de), [WDR.de](http://WDR.de), Deutsche Welle and via affiliated media partners from 8.15 p.m. (CET)**

Pianist and conductor legend Daniel Barenboim and his renowned West-Eastern Divan Orchestra will perform Beethoven's Third Piano Concerto and his "Symphony of Fate" No. 5.

The West-Eastern Divan Orchestra has been an established name in the international music world for more than 20 years. Daniel Barenboim founded it together with Edward W. Said in 1999 with the aim of facilitating dialogue between the different cultures of the Middle East through the experience of making music together. The orchestra has performed the Beethoven symphonies in the world's great concert halls: in Berlin and New York, in Asia and South America, at the Salzburg Festival and the famous BBC Proms.

"Beethoven's music is universal," says Barenboim, "no matter where in the world - it speaks to all people."

Entirely in the spirit of the jubilarian, the anniversary concert also aims to set a social and political signal. The 5th symphony, in particular, is intended to be a signal of hope in the year 2020 marked by Corona. It begins with tragic vehemence in C minor but ends in radiant, triumphant C major, thus following the motto "Per Aspera ad Astra", "From darkness to light."

"We know that there are many freelance musicians who are suffering badly today. This is a major social problem," says Barenboim, "and that is why we need decisive action from politicians. But music speaks most convincingly for itself: When we have the opportunity to express our pain and insecurity and to touch the deepest layers of our humanity."

German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will give the ceremonial address as patron of the anniversary programme BTHVN2020. The well-known violinist and president of the Beethoven-Haus, Daniel Hope, will lead through the evening as WDR presenter.

## **December 16, 2020 - "BeethovenNight powered by Telekom**

- **Free transmission in video livestream via [www.magenta-musik-360.de](http://www.magenta-musik-360.de) and the platforms of MagentaTV and [bthvn2020.de](http://bthvn2020.de) from 8.30 p.m. (CET)**
- **Radio broadcast on WDR3 from 8.04 p.m. (CET)**

On the occasion of Ludwig van Beethoven's 250th birthday on 16 December, General Music Director Dirk Kaftan, the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn and renowned guests will celebrate the jubilee and the relevance of his music.

"We want to celebrate Ludwig van Beethoven and his music here in Bonn with the whole world. Music is always an essential part of life for us. Music, that is thinking along, sympathising, acting along. And we invite you to do so on Beethoven's 250th birthday! We believe that Beethoven is our soul connection between the past and the present. With this in our luggage we

can shape the future," says Dirk Kaftan, General Music Director of the Beethoven Orchestra Bonn.

The "BeethovenNacht powered by Telekom" tells the story of Ludwig van Beethoven's development in Bonn, the way he dealt with music despite his deafness and presents stars and highlights from classical to pop and asks about the future of music.

The "BeethovenNacht powered by Telekom" takes Beethoven as its model to set an example for music and culture among the challenges of our time.

The project is a cooperation between Deutsche Telekom and Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH.

**The present programme planning is subject to changes which may become necessary due to the further development of the corona pandemic. Extensive information on the programme details as well as the additional activities planned around Beethoven's birthday will be announced in early December.**

***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).*