

Press Release

Bonn, 11. October 2019



Beethoven-Tour celebrates opening in Bonn

The Beethoven anniversary is casting its shadows ahead – 22 informational columns revive Beethoven in Bonn and the region

2020 is advancing steadily – the year that celebrates Beethoven 250th anniversary. As a precursor to the anniversary the Beethoven-Tour opens today. It is being installed permanently in Bonn and the region and will surpass the composer's birthday celebrations.

Among the speakers at the opening in the Beethoven-Haus' Chamber Music Hall were Bonn's Lord Mayor **Ashok Sridharan**, District Chief Executive **Sebastian Schuster**, and **Ralf Birkner**, Commercial Manager of the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH, who celebrates the composer's anniversary with a plethora of events and concerts.

Ashok Sridharan, Lord Mayor of Bonn: "The concept and the interactive elements allow everyone to experience Beethoven as a composer and an individual at authentic locations in Bonn and the region. The tour enables people of all ages to get to know the most prolific son of our city."
Sebastian Schuster, District Chief Executive of the Rhein-Sieg-District is equally euphoric: "The new Beethoven-Tour retraces Ludwig van Beethoven's connections of whereabouts in the Rhein-Sieg-region through 11 Stations. It invites you to to revisit these vestiges and to discover sceneries, people and structures that had a great impact on the young composer's life."

The informational columns were commissioned by the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH and designed by Monika Müller-Rieger (Müller-Rieger GmbH). They are 2,5 meters high and provide interesting insight into Beethoven's 22 years he spent in the region. Seven stations in Bonn for example show trilingual animations, informational content and photos that revive Beethoven. The tour was co-assigned by '**Bürger für Beethoven**' who also supported the project conceptual and content-wise. The **Beethoven-Haus** was also closely involved.

BTHVNstory – 11 columns in Bonn

Throughout the city 11 steles were installed under the moniker of 'BTHVNstory', also at the brand new shop of the Beethoven-Haus, among other locations like the Breunig residency where the young artist used to roam. The Remigius Church or the statue of his that was unveiled in 1845 upon insistence of Robert Schumann are further milestones of the tour. The inner-city part of the tour is planned to take around 2 hours.

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BTHVNregion – 11 columns in the region

Under the name 'BTHVNregion' 11 further steles were installed in the larger Rhein-Sieg district. They contain favorite destinations of Beethoven, among those the Peterberg, the Drachenfels, or the Benedict-Abbey Michaelsberg where 11-year old Beethoven enjoyed playing the organ. The regional tour spans from Rheinbach to Hennef and illustrates the composer's sphere of activity.

Beethoven anniversary casts its shadows ahead

The tour marks the first of many projects for the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH. More than 300 projects were finalized under the brand 'BTHVN2020'. The anniversary year takes place under the motto 'Re-Experience Beethoven'. "The bandwidth of all the projects spans classical music, theatrical plays, festivities, public events, pop concerts even, to name a few. We will experience Beethoven in massive musical and colourful facets" says Malte Boecker, Artistic Director of the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH. The preparations are in full swing. Further information will be revealed in a press conference this November.

Overview of the Beethoven Tour

Further reading: <http://www.bthvn-story.de/>

BTHVNstory – The tour in Bonn

1) Beethoven-House

Bonggasse 20, the starting point of Beethoven's life in 1770.

2) Remigius Church: Organ playing

Since 1806 you can find Beethoven's baptismal font here, where he enjoyed playing the organ.

3) Zehrgarten Tavern

Here, on Nov 1st 1792, Beethoven gave his farewell party upon moving to Vienna.

4) Remigiusplatz: Beethovens baptism

Pfarrkirche St. Remigius was located here up until 1800. Beethoven was baptised here on 17.12.1770.

5) Kurfürstliche Schlosskapelle

As a contractual court musician Beethoven performed here numerous times.

6) Rhine Shore

The Rhine played an important role in Beethoven's life - not only as itinerary to Vienna.

7) Breuning residency

The Breuning family and Beethoven entertained a deep friendship.

8) Beethoven-memorial

The memorial was unveiled in 1845 with intense support from Franz Liszt and Robert Schumann.

9) Old cemetery

His mother received an honorary grave.

10) Redoute

Here 21 year-old Beethoven met Joseph Haydn on his return from London in 1792.

11) Draitsch head

From here Beethoven went to play the organ in the monastery Marienforst near Bonn.

BTHVNregion – The tour in the Rhein-Sieg-district

12) Roisdorf Well / Bornheim

Family excursions to this well introduced young Beethoven to healing water.

13) Alfter

As a piano instructor he frequently visited the residencies in the greater Bonn area.

14) Odendorf / Swisttal

Beautiful and picturesque landscapes provided unending inspiration for the proto-romantic composer.

15) Rheinbach

The medieval city walls left a huge impression on him.

16) Meckenheim

He did a trip here with his father Johann in 1781.

17) Chapel Holzem / Wachtberg

Tenor Anton Raaff was a colleague of Beethoven's grandfather.

18) Michaelsberg Abbey

Here, Beethoven first played the church organ when he was 11 years old.

19) Hennef

While hiking, Beethoven and his father met Judge Franz Josef von Proff here.

20) Heisterbach Monastery

His birth year of 1770 saw a dramatic famine in the region. The monastery provided food and shelter.

21) Petersberg

The pilgrimage destination St. Peter chapel is the namesake for this hill that was a regular destination for Beethoven.

22) Drachenfels

For his time being, Beethoven remembered the wild profile of the Drachenfels.

About Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH: *The federal government, the land of North Rhine-Westphalia, the city of Bonn and the Rhein-Sieg-district instructed the Beethoven Jubiläums GmbH, founded by the Beethoven Haus, 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 program spans more than 300 promoted projects. Here you can find an overview of all events: <http://www.bthvn2020.de/en>*